

1 (2) closed-captioned television transmissions have
2 made it possible for thousands of deaf and hearing-im-
3 paired people to gain access to the television medium,
4 thus significantly improving the quality of their lives;

5 (3) closed-captioned television could provide
6 access to information, entertainment, and a greater un-
7 derstanding of our Nation and the world to over
8 24,000,000 people in the United States who are deaf
9 or hearing-impaired;

10 (4) closed-captioned television could provide bene-
11 fits for the nearly 38 percent of older Americans who
12 have some loss of hearing;

13 (5) closed-captioned television can assist both
14 hearing and hearing-impaired children with reading and
15 other learning skills, and improve literacy skills among
16 adults;

17 (6) closed-captioned television can assist those
18 among our Nation's large immigrant population who
19 are learning English as a second language with lan-
20 guage comprehension;

21 (7) currently, a consumer must buy a TeleCaption
22 decoder and connect the decoder to a television set in
23 order to display the closed-captioned television trans-
24 missions;

1 (8) technology is now available to enable that
2 same decoder circuitry to be built into new television
3 sets during manufacture at a nominal cost by 1991;
4 and

5 (9) the availability of decoder-equipped television
6 sets will significantly increase the audience that can be
7 served by closed-captioned television, and such in-
8 creased market will be an incentive to the television
9 medium to provide more captioned programming.

10 DISPLAY CLOSED-CAPTIONED TELEVISION

11 SEC. 3. Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934
12 (47 U.S.C. 303) is amended by adding at the end thereof the
13 following:

14 “(u) Require that apparatus designed to receive televi-
15 sion pictures broadcast simultaneously with sound be
16 equipped with built-in decoder circuitry designed to display
17 closed-captioned television transmissions when such appa-
18 ratus is manufactured in the United States or imported for use
19 in the United States, and its television picture screen is 13
20 inches or greater in size.”.

21 SHIPPING OR IMPORTING

22 SEC. 4. (1) Section 330 of the Communications Act of
23 1934 (47 U.S.C. 330) is amended by redesignating subsec-
24 tion (b) as subsection (c), and by adding after subsection (a)
25 the following new subsection:

1 “(b) No person shall ship in interstate commerce, manu-
2 facture, assemble, or import from any foreign country into
3 the United States, any apparatus described in section 303(u)
4 of this Act except in accordance with rules prescribed by the
5 Commission pursuant to the authority granted by that sec-
6 tion. Such rules shall provide performance and display stand-
7 ards for such built-in decoder circuitry. Such rules shall fur-
8 ther require that all such apparatus be able to receive and
9 display closed captioning which have been transmitted by
10 way of line 21 of the vertical blanking interval and which
11 conform to the signal and display specifications set forth in
12 the Public Broadcasting System engineering report numbered
13 E-7709-C dated May 1980, as amended by the Telecaption
14 II Decoder Module Performance Specification published by
15 the National Captioning Institute, November 1985. Five
16 years from the date of promulgating the original rules re-
17 quired by this section, the Commission shall evaluate compat-
18 ibility issues and advancement in television technology and
19 shall take any action it deems necessary to amend such rules
20 so as to ensure that such decoder chip circuitry is capable of
21 continuing service to closed caption consumers regardless of
22 new broadcast technologies. This subsection shall not apply
23 to carriers transporting such apparatus without trading it.”.

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2 101st CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION made it possible for people to gain access to the television medium.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

7 NOVEMBER 21 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 6), 1989
8 Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. SIMON) introduced

9 the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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A BILL

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SHORT TITLE

4 SECTION. 1. This Act may be cited as the "Television

5 Decoder Circuitry Act of 1989".

6 FINDINGS

7 SEC. 2. The Congress finds that—

8 (1) to the fullest extent made possible by technol-

9 ogy, deaf and hearing-impaired people should have

10 equal access to the television medium;

1 (2) closed-captioned television transmissions have
2 made it possible for thousands of deaf and hearing-im-
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24 tion (b) as subsection (c), and by adding after subsection (a)
25 the following new subsection:

(b) No person shall ship in interstate commerce, manufacture, assemble, or import from any foreign country into the United States any apparatus described in section 303(u)

4 of this Act except in accordance with rules prescribed by the Commission pursuant to the authority granted by that section. Such rules shall provide performance and display standards for such built-in decoder circuitry. Such rules shall further require that all such apparatus be able to receive and

9 display closed captioning which have been transmitted by way of the DT of the vertical blanking interval and which conform to the signal and display specifications set forth in

12 the Public Broadcasting System engineering report numbered E-7709-C dated May 1980, as amended by the

14 II Decoder Module Performance Specifications published by the National Captioning Institute, November 1985, five

16 years from the date of promulgating the final rules required by this section, the Commission shall evaluate compatibility issues and advancement in television technology and

19 shall take any action it deems necessary to amend such rules so as to ensure that such decoder circuitry is capable of

21 continuing service to closed caption consumers regardless of new broadcast technologies. This subsection shall not apply

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(a) and by adding after subsection (c), and by adding after subsection

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